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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF OHIO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
- - - - -x  
CHRISTA J. BLANKENSHIP, et al. :  
Plaintiff, : Civil Action  
vs. : Number  
PHILIP MORRIS INCORPORATED, et al. : 97-C-204  
Defendant. :  
- - - - -x

DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL V. SPAGNOLO, M.D.

Washington, D.C.  
Thursday, April 27, 2000

REPORTED BY:  
VICTORIA L. WILSON

1           Deposition of SAMUEL V. SPAGNOLO, called for  
2   examination pursuant to notice of deposition, on  
3   Thursday, April 27, 2000, in Washington, DC at the  
4   offices of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, 600 14th Street NW,  
5   at 10:10 a.m. before Vicky Wilson, a Notary Public  
6   within and for the District of Columbia, when were  
7   present on behalf of the respective parties:

8

9           ANN RITTER, ESQ. (via telephone)  
10          Ness Motley Loadholt Richardson & Poole  
11          28 Bridgeside, Post Office Box 1792  
12          Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29465  
13          843-216-9000  
14          On behalf of Plaintiff

15

16          CARL L. ROWLEY, ESQ.  
17          Thompson Coburn LLP  
18          One Mercantile Center  
19          St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
20          314-552-6000  
21          On behalf of Defendant Lorillard Tobacco

22

23                               -- Continued --

24

25

1 APPEARANCES: (Continued)

2

3

CHRISTINA L. SMITH, ESQ.

4

Farrell, Farrell & Farrell, L.C.

5

914 Fifth Avenue, Suite 300

6

Post Office Box 6457

7

Huntington, West Virginia 25772-6457

8

On behalf of Defendant Lorillard Tobacco

9

10

DIANE JANULIS, ESQ. (via telephone)

11

King & Spalding

12

191 Peachtree Street N.E.

13

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

14

404-572-2445

15

On behalf of Defendant Brown & Williamson

16

17

TRAVIS FLIEHMAN, ESQ. (via telephone)

18

Jackson & Kelly

19

1600 Laidley Tower

20

Post Office Box 553

21

Charlestown, West Virginia 25322

22

On behalf of Defendant Brown & Williamson

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24

25

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 Whereupon,

3 SAMUEL V. SPAGNOLO, M.D.

4 was called as a witness and, having first been duly  
5 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

6 MR. ROWLEY: Ann, as I just mentioned to  
7 you before we went on the record, I wanted to give  
8 you notice of three typographical errors that are in  
9 Dr. Spagnolo's report. The first, which you were  
10 already aware of before today, is on page 2, in the  
11 second line of the first full paragraph, the word  
12 "symptomatic" should have an "A" before it; it  
13 should be "asymptomatic."

14 Then on page 3, two words were left out of  
15 a quotation on page 3. This is one, two, three,  
16 four, five lines from the bottom of the first full  
17 paragraph. The quote starts, "No organization" --  
18 I'm sorry -- "No organizations recommend." The  
19 actual quote is, "No organizations currently  
20 recommend." The word "currently" was mistakenly  
21 omitted. And then the rest of the quote is, "routine  
22 screening of either the general population or  
23 smokers." It should be, "or of smokers"; so the word  
24 "of" was mistakenly omitted.

25 And that's all I had, Ann. Go ahead and

1 proceed as you want.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MS. RITTER:

4 Q. Dr. Spagnolo, this is Ann Ritter. I'm  
5 going to be asking you questions on behalf of the  
6 Plaintiff in this class action. If you need to  
7 interrupt me to get me to repeat a question, you sort  
8 of have to wait until I take a breath because of the  
9 way these speaker phones work, so don't hesitate to  
10 try to interrupt me but don't be surprised when I am  
11 talking. It doesn't allow me to hear what you are  
12 saying.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. I received, Dr. Spagnolo, a letter dated  
15 April 24th from an Adam Miller providing me some  
16 materials that apparently are your reliance materials  
17 in this case, in addition to anything else that was  
18 referenced in your report. Were you aware that I had  
19 been provided about a two-inch, three-inch stack of  
20 materials?

21 A. Yes, I was told you were provided those  
22 materials.

23 Q. Do you have those with you today?

24 A. No, I do not.

25 Q. What do those materials actually represent?

1           A.     Well, those materials are materials that I  
2     looked at and used in order to formulate my expert  
3     witness disclosure opinion.

4           Q.     Are they materials that you selected?

5           A.     Some of them were.

6           Q.     And are they materials that you find  
7     reliable and authoritative for the purpose of giving  
8     your opinion in this case?

9           MR. ROWLEY:   Let me object to the form,  
10    "reliable and authoritative," vague.

11                  You may answer.

12           THE WITNESS:   Well, they were materials  
13    that are found in the literature.   Some of those  
14    materials are put in there so that you can receive  
15    opinions from various groups.   Some of the articles  
16    and materials in there are review articles, some of  
17    them are actually well-designed studies, so they all  
18    carry somewhat different weight but it is a general  
19    overview of the literature so that you can look at  
20    all sides of an issue.

21           BY MS. RITTER:

22           Q.     One of the articles that was included as an  
23    article by Padgett and Tanaka, are you familiar with  
24    that article?

25           A.     If it is in that list, I'm sure that I have

1 read it. I don't have that in front of me, that  
2 article.

3 Q. And do you have with you a copy of the  
4 large book that you were relying on which was the  
5 report of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If you could turn to -- what is that  
8 number, XLI? That's a Roman numeral number in the  
9 preface. I was never very good with Roman numbers.  
10 Are you there?

11 A. Yes. I think so. Under the methodology?

12 Q. Right. And could you look at the middle  
13 paragraph on that page and read that for the record?

14 A. You are talking about the paragraph that  
15 starts with, "The second criterion"?

16 Q. Right.

17 A. Would you like me to read that whole  
18 paragraph?

19 Q. Yes, I would.

20 A. Okay. "The second criterion for selecting  
21 preventive services for review was that the maneuver  
22 had to be performed in the clinical setting. Only  
23 those preventive services that would be carried out  
24 by clinicians in the context of routine health care  
25 were examined. Findings should not be extrapolated

1 to preventive interventions performed in other  
2 settings. Screening tests are evaluated in terms of  
3 their effectiveness when performed during the  
4 clinical encounter (i.e., case finding. Screening  
5 tests performed solely at schools, work sites, health  
6 fairs and other community locations are generally  
7 outside the scope of this report. Also, preventive  
8 interventions implemented outside the clinical  
9 setting, for example, health and safety legislation,  
10 mandatory screening, community health promotion) are  
11 not specifically evaluated. Although clinicians can  
12 play an important role in promoting such programs and  
13 encouraging the participation of their patients,  
14 references to these types of interventions are made  
15 occasionally in sections of this book."

16 Q. Okay. Now, here's my question,  
17 Dr. Spagnolo: Do you have any reason to believe that  
18 the statements contained in this paragraph  
19 inaccurately describe the scope of the review that  
20 was conducted in connection with the U.S. Preventive  
21 Services Task Force?

22 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form as  
23 compound, in that the quotation that the witness just  
24 read contains what are likely to be dozens of  
25 statements.



1                   Subject to that, you may answer.

2                   THE WITNESS: Well, I'm a little confused  
3 by your question because there is so much in that  
4 paragraph, it is difficult to formulate an answer to  
5 that question.

6                   BY MS. RITTER:

7           Q.     Okay. Well, then, I'm happy, Dr. Spagnolo,  
8 to go sentence by sentence. Do you have any reason  
9 to believe that the task force examined preventive  
10 services that were not carried out by clinicians in  
11 the context of routine health care?

12          A.     Would you state that one more time because  
13 that, to me, was a little confusing?

14                  MS. RITTER: The court reporter could read  
15 the question.

16                  (The reporter read the record as requested.)

17                  THE WITNESS: Well, only based on what they  
18 say and that is references to interventions are made  
19 occasionally in sections of this book, so my answer  
20 would be I'm not -- I have no reason to believe that  
21 but I can't go beyond what they have stated here.

22                  BY MS. RITTER:

23          Q.     Do you disagree with the author of this  
24 preface of the methodology overview of this study,  
25 would you disagree with their statement that the

1 findings of the study should not be extrapolated to  
2 preventive interventions performed in other settings?

3 A. I don't think that's what they are saying,  
4 at least that's not my impression.

5 Q. Well, what do you think they are saying in  
6 that sentence? The sentence that I am talking about  
7 is in quotes; "Findings should not be extrapolated to  
8 preventive interventions performed in other  
9 settings," unquote.

10 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form.

11 Go ahead.

12 THE WITNESS: I can't tell you what they  
13 are trying to say in that sentence.

14 BY MS. RITTER:

15 Q. Had you ever read that sentence before  
16 today?

17 A. Well, I have read most of this book, yes.

18 Q. Do you recall if you have read this  
19 paragraph ever before today?

20 A. Do I specifically recall? Probably I did  
21 read it. I have read this whole section.

22 Q. Were you aware that screening tests  
23 performed solely at schools, work sites, health fairs  
24 and other community locations are generally outside  
25 the scope of this report?

1 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

2 THE WITNESS: Well, I, again, don't know  
3 how they mean that in terms of how they formulated  
4 their opinion with regards to their recommendations  
5 in the scientific literature, so I'm not quite sure  
6 what they meant by this sentence.

7 BY MS. RITTER:

8 Q. So, in general, Dr. Spagnolo, you don't  
9 really understand the scope of this report or its  
10 application?

11 A. No, I understand the scope of the report.  
12 I'm specifically talking about that one sentence.  
13 There it is taken out of context. I'm not sure how  
14 to respond to your question.

15 Q. Do you have any information that leads you  
16 to believe that either the tests Dr. Burns described  
17 in his report or tests that the court might order  
18 would only be carried out by clinicians in the  
19 context of routine health care?

20 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, compound  
21 and vague.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I don't understand that  
23 question at all.

24 BY MS. RITTER:

25 Q. Do you understand that in this case the

1 Plaintiff is asking the court to set up a medical  
2 monitoring program?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. Do you understand that as part of that  
5 medical monitoring program, the Plaintiff is asking  
6 that certain tests or evaluations or medical tests be  
7 performed on class members who meet the criteria of  
8 the class definition and who come within the  
9 guidelines for receiving such testing?

10 A. Well, I understand what Dr. Burns is  
11 recommending, if that's what you are asking.

12 Q. Do you have any information that leads you  
13 to believe that the tests that Dr. Burns is  
14 recommending could only be carried out by clinicians  
15 in the context of routine health care?

16 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague.

17 THE WITNESS: I don't know how he -- I  
18 don't know exactly where he wants those tests to be  
19 carried out.

20 BY MS. RITTER:

21 Q. Are you aware, Dr. Spagnolo, that the court  
22 ultimately will be the one to determine what sort of  
23 medical monitoring would be provided to the class  
24 members, if any is to be provided?

25 A. I understand that's in the document called

1 Third Amended Complaint, that it would appear the  
2 court would make some decision.

3 Q. In your report, have you offered the court  
4 any guidance for the court to identify any type of  
5 monitoring for the smoking population?

6 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague and  
7 argumentative.

8 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I understand  
9 your question. Again, have I already advised the  
10 court of something?

11 BY MS. RITTER:

12 Q. In your report, have you advised the court  
13 regarding any particular screening test?

14 A. Have I personally advised the court of  
15 anything? Is that what you are asking me?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Not to my knowledge.

18 Q. If given the opportunity to advise the  
19 court, in addition to the report that you have  
20 offered in this case, would you have any screening  
21 test that you would suggest for a smoking population  
22 in West Virginia --

23 MR. ROWLEY: Let me --

24 BY MS. RITTER:

25 Q. -- in order to screen for the presence of

1 smoking related diseases?

2 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form,  
3 Ann. You need to specify what smoker you are talking  
4 about before you ask for an opinion about a smoker.

5 BY MS. RITTER:

6 Q. I'm asking about any smokers.

7 A. I would need to know -- I wouldn't make a  
8 blanket recommendation on anybody unless I knew who  
9 they were.

10 Q. So you could only make such a  
11 recommendation after having evaluated an individual?

12 A. Well, that's the best way to practice  
13 medicine.

14 Q. And so if the court decided that it wanted  
15 to put together some sort of a medical monitoring  
16 program for a population of persons who have a  
17 history of smoking, you have no input that you would  
18 offer the court concerning what sort of tests should  
19 be included in the program and for which groups of  
20 smokers the test should be offered; is that correct?

21 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague and  
22 triple compound.

23 Go ahead.

24 THE WITNESS: I would need -- I would be  
25 always happy to advise the court if they sought my

1 opinion but I would like to know ahead of time before  
2 I gave that opinion as to whom I was evaluating and  
3 what their circumstances were and what their  
4 histories were and what their potential diseases  
5 were. I mean I would need -- I'm not in the general  
6 habit of just making broad statements, so if the  
7 court asked me some question, I would want to know  
8 some information. So I can't make a blanket  
9 statement.

10 BY MS. RITTER:

11 Q. Would the information that you have just  
12 identified that you would need be as to individual  
13 smokers or would there be group-wide information that  
14 you could be provided?

15 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, I'll try to answer that  
17 the best I can based on the question, which is a  
18 little vague, but I would want to try to know as much  
19 as I could about each individual person before I made  
20 such a recommendation. I think, otherwise, you are  
21 at risk of recommending something that could be  
22 harmful.

23 BY MS. RITTER:

24 Q. In your opinion, Dr. Spagnolo, does  
25 cigarette smoking cause disease?

1           A.    Well, that's a little vague.  I think  
2   certainly cigarette smoking has been implicated as a  
3   risk factor for certain diseases.

4           Q.    You are unable to answer the question as  
5   posed, which was does cigarette smoking cause  
6   disease?

7                   MR. ROWLEY:  Let me object to your  
8   characterization of him not having answered the  
9   question and move to strike it.

10                   BY MS. RITTER:

11           Q.    I still have the question posed, though.

12                   MR. ROWLEY:  That's fine.  We need the next  
13   question.

14                   MS. RITTER:  The question I just asked?

15                   MR. ROWLEY:  Could you rephrase or repeat  
16   it, please?

17                   BY MS. RITTER:

18           Q.    Are you able, Dr. Spagnolo, to answer the  
19   following question:  Does cigarette smoking cause  
20   disease, yes or no?

21                   MR. ROWLEY:  Objection; asked and  
22   answered.

23                   And, Doctor, you are never required to  
24   answer a question yes or no if the complete answer is  
25   something in addition to yes or no or other than yes



1 or no. You may answer subject to the objection.

2 MS. RITTER: Let me rephrase the question.

3 BY MS. RITTER:

4 Q. Dr. Spagnolo, are you able to answer the  
5 question, quote, "Does cigarette smoking cause  
6 disease, yes or no?" And for any answer you give,  
7 you are certainly entitled to provide me an  
8 explanation for your answer.

9 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection.

10 THE WITNESS: Well, I'll try to give you an  
11 answer to your question. Cigarette smoking is a  
12 major risk factor for disease. And that's as far as  
13 I can tell you. It is a significant risk factor for  
14 a variety of diseases and I think we all know that.

15 BY MS. RITTER:

16 Q. Is a person who has a history of smoking  
17 cigarettes at a significantly increased risk of  
18 contracting serious latent diseases above that of a  
19 person who does not have a history of smoking  
20 cigarettes?

21 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague. I  
22 would ask that you specify the person that you are  
23 speaking of.

24 If you can answer the question, go ahead.

25 THE WITNESS: Well, again, I keep coming

1 back to knowing. I need to know more. When you ask  
2 me these questions, I need to know about the  
3 patients. Smoking is a risk factor for certain  
4 diseases but in order for me to give you an answer, I  
5 have to know about the patient. I have to know a lot  
6 of things about that patient. So the most I can give  
7 you in that kind of a general question is that it is  
8 an increased -- it is a risk factor for certain  
9 diseases and I think we all know what those diseases  
10 are.

11 BY MS. RITTER:

12 Q. Can you diagnose chronic obstructive lung  
13 disease with a spirometer?

14 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

15 THE WITNESS: Do you want to define  
16 "chronic obstructive lung disease"?

17 BY MS. RITTER:

18 Q. Why don't you give me a definition for it  
19 and then once you have given me the definition, I can  
20 ask you the question again?

21 A. Chronic obstructive lung disease is a  
22 diagnosis made by a clinician when he examines a  
23 patient based on the history and physical and can be  
24 supported by obtaining a pulmonary function study  
25 which may demonstrate various forms of airflow

1 obstruction. The diagnosis rests with the physician.

2 Q. Can you diagnose myocardial infarction with  
3 electrocardiogram?

4 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection.

5 THE WITNESS: Well, we are playing a little  
6 game here but I will be happy to answer. Diagnoses  
7 are made by doctors, they are not made by tests. You  
8 need to do a history; you need to do a physical; you  
9 need to perform appropriate laboratory studies...  
10 Electrocardiograms will simply reflect vectors of  
11 electrical energy recorded on a piece of paper which  
12 then need to be interpreted in the context of the  
13 patients, of the patient's history, the patient's  
14 complaints, the patient's symptoms, the patient's  
15 past medical history, and only then can you make a  
16 diagnosis. People think you make diagnoses from  
17 paper. You make diagnoses from having looked at  
18 patients.

19 BY MS. RITTER:

20 Q. Chronic obstructive lung disease, can it be  
21 a progressive condition?

22 A. Well, again, you need to define "chronic  
23 obstructive lung disease." And, again, I keep coming  
24 back to you tell me which disease it is, I'll tell  
25 you what I can tell you about that disease and I'll

1 tell you then after you tell me about the patient,  
2 whether or not it may or may not be progressive.

3 Q. Using your definition of "chronic  
4 obstructive lung disease," can that disease be  
5 progressive in any individual?

6 A. It depends on the type of chronic  
7 obstructive lung disease. Some chronic obstructive  
8 lung disease may not be progressive. Some may.  
9 Depends on a whole host of other factors that are  
10 going on within that individual patient. I can't --

11 MR. ROWLEY: Hold on. Ann. Ann. Ann.

12 THE WITNESS: If you would let me finish, I  
13 can't predict that without knowing all that other  
14 information.

15 BY MS. RITTER:

16 Q. Have you ever treated a patient who had  
17 progressive chronic obstructive lung disease?

18 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

19 THE WITNESS: Well, again, I hate to  
20 quibble with you but if you give me what you mean by  
21 "chronic obstructive lung disease," I could tell  
22 you. There are patients who have some types of  
23 chronic obstructive disease which I have treated that  
24 have been progressive but you need to know about the  
25 patient.

1 BY MS. RITTER:

2 Q. If a patient is diagnosed early in the  
3 progression of chronic obstructive lung disease of a  
4 type which you have found in any patient to have been  
5 progressive, can you alter the subsequent course of  
6 the disease?

7 A. Depends on the disease, depends on the  
8 patient, depends on what was causing the chronic  
9 obstructive disease. There are too many factors  
10 involved for me to give you a general answer.

11 Q. Is there any type of chronic obstructive  
12 lung disease which if diagnosed early can be altered?

13 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague.

14 THE WITNESS: If you want to give me a  
15 disease, I can answer that. There probably are some  
16 diseases that we can perhaps intervene to either slow  
17 the course of the disease but you need to know,  
18 again, you have really got to know your patient, you  
19 have got to know what the obstructive lung disease  
20 is, you have got to know what the factors are, you  
21 have got to know what the role of other compounding  
22 factors are in that disease and I can't give you a  
23 specific answer.

24 BY MS. RITTER:

25 Q. Have you ever treated any patients who have

1    been diagnosed as having lung cancer?

2           A.    Yes.

3           Q.    Do you know of any instances where the  
4   existence of the lung cancer was first identified by  
5   an abnormal chest X-ray or the patients that you have  
6   described as having treated as having lung cancer?

7           A.    May I ask you to rephrase that question?

8           Q.    What part of the question do you not  
9   follow?

10          A.    I didn't follow any of it.

11          Q.    For the universe of patients that you,  
12   yourself, have treated for lung cancer, do you know  
13   of any individual for whom their lung cancer was  
14   initially diagnosed via an abnormal chest X-ray?

15          A.    I think your question is poorly phrased  
16   because an X-ray doesn't make a diagnosis. I thought  
17   we went over that a minute ago. Tests don't make  
18   diagnoses, doctors do. Have I ever had a patient  
19   sent to me with an X-ray with an abnormality that  
20   eventually I made a diagnosis of lung cancer? The  
21   answer would be yes.

22          Q.    I have the same question but for a CAT scan  
23   of the chest.

24          A.    I have had patients sent to me with  
25   abnormalities or changes on a CAT scan for which we

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

1 eventually determined that the abnormality turned out  
2 to be a lung cancer.

3 Q. In your opinion, are cure rates for lung  
4 cancer different for different stages of diagnoses of  
5 that lung cancer?

6 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form,  
7 vague, and I would ask you to specify the patient  
8 that you are talking about.

9 BY MS. RITTER:

10 Q. I'm not asking about a particular patient,  
11 Dr. Spagnolo, I'm talking in general. Can general  
12 cure rates for cancer be different for different  
13 stages of diagnoses?

14 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection. That's what  
15 makes the question objectionable.

16 You may answer if you are able to.

17 THE WITNESS: Well, let me try to do the  
18 best I can with such a vague question. We try to  
19 stage patients, which is one way of looking at and  
20 evaluating an individual patient. The ultimate  
21 prognosis, not only is perhaps determined by a  
22 clinical stage but it is also determined by a host of  
23 other factors that are involved in that patient, such  
24 as other compounding medical problems, so patients  
25 that may have exactly the same stage of disease may

1 have very much different survival rates and, you  
2 know, you get into trouble by trying to extrapolate  
3 groups with individual patients and that's why when  
4 we talk to patients in our office, we never try to  
5 give them an exact number about what their survival  
6 may be because there are too many other factors that  
7 relate to that individual patient. So you have got  
8 to be very, very careful.

9 BY MS. RITTER:

10 Q. Do you have any opinion as to whether or  
11 not the lower the stage of lung cancer at the time of  
12 diagnosis, the better the chance of survival?

13 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object as asked and  
14 answered. That's the same question rephrased, I  
15 believe.

16 But you may answer again.

17 THE WITNESS: If I understand you  
18 correctly, you are, basically, asking me what I just  
19 answered and I'll give you the same answer. You just  
20 don't want to make judgments in an individual patient  
21 without knowing that patient very, very well, even if  
22 the clinical stage may seem to be different than some  
23 other clinical stage. There is too many other  
24 compounding variables.

25 BY MS. RITTER:



1 Q. Do you know, Dr. Spagnolo, of any curative  
2 treatments for lung cancer?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form. Same  
4 objection.

5 THE WITNESS: Could you be more specific?

6 BY MS. RITTER:

7 Q. Do you know, Dr. Spagnolo, of any  
8 treatments which could potentially cure a case of  
9 lung cancer?

10 A. Again, I would like to come back to knowing  
11 more about that patient. There are patients who we  
12 sometimes think we cure them and we don't and the  
13 most common approach to the -- to curing a lung  
14 cancer at the moment, depending, again, on the  
15 individual and on the factors and whether or not they  
16 can tolerate it, would be surgery and that's a  
17 decision that we come to after a thorough evaluation  
18 of that patient, but it is the major current method  
19 that we use to attempt to remove tumors in the hopes  
20 that we can effect a cure.

21 Q. In your opinion, is the early detection of  
22 lung cancer -- let me rephrase that.

23 Dr. Spagnolo, in your opinion, can the  
24 early detection of lung cancer alter the outcome of  
25 that disease?

1 MR. ROWLEY: Let me raise the same  
2 objection as before and, in addition, I believe that  
3 question has been asked and answered and it is  
4 essentially the same question that was asked twice  
5 before with respect to staging.

6 However, subject to that objection, you may  
7 answer.

8 THE WITNESS: I think it is the same  
9 question. I'm going to try to come up with an answer  
10 that maybe will keep you from asking me another  
11 question. When we have attempted to do screening to  
12 detect early lung cancers, and I believe there are at  
13 least four very good, well-controlled prospective  
14 trials, looking at screening and looking at the --  
15 with the hope that they could detect cancers by  
16 screening that would alter mortality, it was  
17 unfortunate that that did not occur so I guess that's  
18 the answer to your question, that currently that does  
19 not seem to work.

20 BY MS. RITTER:

21 Q. You just referred to four very good  
22 prospective trials that looked at screenings. Can  
23 you name those four for me?

24 A. Well, I'm sure I could name them. I think  
25 they are in that stack of material that we presented

1 to you. There is the Mayo Clinic study, the  
2 Johns-Hopkins study, the Memorial study, there was  
3 the Czechoslovakian study, there were previous  
4 studies done in the fifties and sixties that were  
5 perhaps not as comprehensive but at least those four  
6 were very well done, they were state-of-the-art  
7 science, prospective, randomized, very high level,  
8 widely accepted as definitive studies. I think those  
9 are the four that I was referring to.

10 Q. Now, when you first mentioned the four  
11 studies a moment ago, you said, "we had conducted,"  
12 or something to that effect and I wondered if you  
13 actually had personally been involved in any of those  
14 prospective trials that you just listed for us.

15 A. If I said, "we," I certainly misspoke. I  
16 was speaking of the medical community at large. No,  
17 I was not involved.

18 Q. Have you read each of those studies?

19 A. Yes, I have read those.

20 Q. When you read them or at any time  
21 thereafter, did you have any criticisms of the  
22 methodology?

23 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form as  
24 vague. That is an awfully broad question that  
25 relates to multiple studies and multiple aspects of

1 multiple studies.

2 THE WITNESS: I would need to -- I would  
3 have to go back and look at any of those. Those were  
4 excellent studies. I have no general criticisms of  
5 their results. Unless you had some very, very  
6 specific question, I can't think of any at the  
7 moment.

8 BY MS. RITTER:

9 Q. You provided in your reliance materials an  
10 article entitled, "A Randomized Study of Chest X-ray  
11 Screenings for Lung Cancer as part of the Prostate,  
12 Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (TLCO) Trial," by  
13 authors Barnett Cramer, John Gulligan, Phillip  
14 Prorock, all of the National Cancer Institute,  
15 Division of Cancer Prevention and Control in  
16 Bethesda, Maryland. Are you familiar at all with  
17 that article?

18 MR. ROWLEY: Let me -- Ann, I'm sorry to  
19 nitpick but you characterized the stack that was  
20 produced to you as reliance materials. If you look  
21 at Adam Miller's cover letter, it states clearly that  
22 these are materials that Dr. Spagnolo had reviewed or  
23 critiqued and I hate to nitpick and I apologize for  
24 interrupting but I don't want that misinterpreted  
25 later on. Sorry for interrupting.

1                   Go ahead and answer.

2                   THE WITNESS: Actually, I forgot the  
3 question.

4                   BY MS. RITTER:

5           Q.     Are you familiar with this article by  
6 Cramer, Gulligan, Prorock of the National Cancer  
7 Institute describing the TLCO trials in the process  
8 of being conducted?

9           A.     I remember the title and I remember that  
10 it -- I would have to have that in front of me to  
11 really look at every line so that I wouldn't want to  
12 be held to saying something that might not be  
13 absolutely accurate. I think they were describing an  
14 ongoing trial that, yet, has not been completed.

15          Q.     Do you recall that before they actually  
16 began describing the trial, they explained the  
17 justification for actually conducting that trial?

18          A.     I don't remember the specifics of that. I  
19 don't remember the specifics of their justification.  
20 They may have been asking a new scientific question.  
21 I don't remember.

22          Q.     Do you recall that they stated in their  
23 article that early lung cancer screening trials in  
24 the 1950s and 1960s were for the most part  
25 uncontrolled and nonrandomized and, therefore, an

1 inadequate design to make a statement of benefit  
2 regarding screening?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, I have already  
5 commented on that, I think, in a couple of those  
6 previous questions. I said to you that the -- some  
7 of the earlier trials before the Mayo Clinic trial  
8 and the Hopkins trial and the Memorial trial and the  
9 Czechoslovakian trial, there were some other articles  
10 done in the fifties and sixties -- one, I believe,  
11 was the Philadelphia trial and at the moment I'm  
12 slipping on the other one -- that were perhaps not as  
13 well designed to answer some of the questions that  
14 the Mayo Clinic trial and the Memorial trial and the  
15 Hopkins trial have answered in terms of mortality and  
16 so I think that may be, and I'm speculating because I  
17 don't know the intent of what those authors were  
18 saying, that may be what they were referring to.

19 BY MS. RITTER:

20 Q. Do you recall that those authors, who are  
21 doctors with the National Cancer Institute in  
22 Bethesda, Maryland, wrote concerning the  
23 Czechoslovakian study that interpretation of the  
24 study is difficult since there was no unscreened  
25 group and overall mortality over a fixed period of

1 time has not been reported? Do you recall that  
2 criticism of the Czechoslovakian study?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Objection; compound.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, you know, that's a  
5 judgment of those authors at the NIH. There are  
6 other people who felt that the conclusions of that  
7 trial were excellent and that it was a well-performed  
8 study that answered a lot of questions. The NIH  
9 people may have a different opinion. I thought the  
10 trial was a superbly done study and it's been quoted  
11 many times in the literature and reviewed.

12 BY MS. RITTER:

13 Q. Do you recall that regarding the Mayo lung  
14 project, which is one of the other trials that you  
15 referred to, that they stated that these results  
16 provide evidence of lead time bias and overdiagnosis  
17 which can make interpretation of trials without  
18 controls difficult. One problem in the Mayo lung  
19 project was contamination in the control group.  
20 Investigators estimated that about 50 percent of the  
21 subjects in the control group had chest X-rays  
22 outside of the study often because of pulmonary  
23 complaints common in smokers. Do you recall those  
24 authors with the National Cancer Institute leveling  
25 those criticisms regarding the Mayo lung project?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

1 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection.

2 THE WITNESS: Well, let me tell you, I  
3 don't recall that and everybody can nitpick a study  
4 but everybody also agrees these are the best, most  
5 accurately, most thoroughly done studies in the  
6 literature and one can speculate they could have been  
7 maybe a little bit better done but there are no  
8 better studies and these are superbly conducted  
9 studies. These are theories -- some of this stuff is  
10 theories that these people are conjecting. I think  
11 if you look at the Guide to Preventive -- to Clinical  
12 Preventive Services, I think if you look at the  
13 recommendations of all of the major medical groups,  
14 they have looked at these studies in great detail and  
15 on the basis of these studies, they have recommended  
16 and concluded that screening for this by X-rays and  
17 sputums is not indicated.

18 BY MS. RITTER:

19 Q. Do you disagree with the criticisms that  
20 these National Cancer Institute doctors have leveled  
21 in their articles concerning the Mayo lung project?

22 A. I really think I have already answered that  
23 question. I think lots of people have disagreed with  
24 the conclusions and they have raised -- they are just  
25 speculating without any data.



1           Q.     I wasn't asking about other people and I  
2 apologize if my question wasn't specific. I was  
3 asking whether you, Dr. Spagnolo, agreed with these  
4 National Cancer Institute doctors' criticisms.

5           MR. ROWLEY: Objection; asked and answered.

6           THE WITNESS: I have already given you an  
7 answer on that. I find the Mayo Clinic studies and  
8 the Hopkins studies and the Memorial studies very  
9 compelling, very well done, the best that we have  
10 available. They have been reviewed many times by  
11 many outside groups, including the American College  
12 of Physicians, American Cancer Society. I find no  
13 reason to take any of that data and question the  
14 validity of that study or those studies.

15           BY MS. RITTER:

16           Q.     So, then, I take it you would disagree with  
17 the criticisms the same authors have leveled  
18 concerning the Memorial Sloan Kettering project and  
19 the Johns-Hopkins study that neither study compared a  
20 screened group to a nonscreened group?

21           MR. ROWLEY: Objection; compound, asked and  
22 answered, vague.

23           THE WITNESS: I don't know how to answer  
24 your question any better than I have already given it  
25 to you.

1 BY MS. RITTER:

2 Q. On page 5 of your report, Dr. Spagnolo, you  
3 talk about multiple risk factors. For example, at  
4 the bottom of the page you state, "Lung cancer is  
5 also associated with a number of risk factors in  
6 addition to smoking, including age, genetic  
7 predisposition." Do you see that part of your  
8 report?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you know whether there is scientific  
11 evidence to indicate that any of the risk factors you  
12 have listed on page 5 for lung cancer cancel out or  
13 eliminate the risk factor associated with smoking  
14 when those risks occur concurrently?

15 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague.

16 THE WITNESS: That's an interesting  
17 question. I don't know whether you can have a  
18 specific answer to that question. These are all  
19 legitimately scientifically accepted risk factors for  
20 the development of cancer, and beyond that, I don't  
21 think you can make a statement with any degree of  
22 medical certainty.

23 BY MS. RITTER:

24 Q. Do you agree, Dr. Spagnolo, that the  
25 relative risk for contracting lung cancer reaches

1 levels 20 times or more for a two-pack-per-day smoker  
2 as opposed to nonsmokers?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Ann, let me object to the form  
4 as vague and argumentative. You need to specify the  
5 study population in any question that relates to the  
6 calculation of a relative risk because it is  
7 population specific. Are you willing to rephrase?

8 MS. RITTER: You can ask your questions  
9 when I am done. I asked the question that I asked.

10 MR. ROWLEY: I'm asking you if you are  
11 willing to rephrase.

12 MS. RITTER: No, but if you would like, you  
13 can make note of some different question that you  
14 would like to ask about the various populations you  
15 were thinking of. I was asking a general question.

16 MR. ROWLEY: Okay. Object to the form as  
17 stated.

18 THE WITNESS: Would you like to repeat your  
19 question?

20 BY MS. RITTER:

21 Q. Do you agree or disagree that the relative  
22 risk for lung cancer reaches levels 20 times or more  
23 for two-packs-per-day smokers as opposed to  
24 nonsmokers?

25 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection.

1 THE WITNESS: Well, that's a really broad  
2 question, which is one that relates to population  
3 studies and there probably have been population  
4 studies that have looked at that relative risk and  
5 maybe even come up with a number that's that high.  
6 Some have come up with numbers that are much, much  
7 lower. But you can't take that kind of external  
8 population and with any degree of medical certainty  
9 apply it to an individual patient.

10 BY MS. RITTER:

11 Q. Do you agree or disagree that 80 percent of  
12 lung cancer occurs in smokers?

13 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection.

14 THE WITNESS: Well, I think I have kind of  
15 given you that answer that you do population studies  
16 and you can come up with these relative risk figures  
17 but you can't translate that into the individual so I  
18 can't tell an individual what his risk is. I need to  
19 know -- I need to know all those other things, his  
20 exposures to all these other things, genetics, so I  
21 think it is -- that's not a very wise thing to do.

22 Q. Do you make any use of the extensive  
23 population data concerning relative risk of lung  
24 cancer in smokers in any way in your practice of  
25 medicine?

1           A.     Well, in what way?  What are you asking  
2     me?

3           Q.     In any way in your practice of medicine.

4           A.     I use all the medical information at my  
5     disposal when I practice medicine.  I'm not sure what  
6     your question is.

7           Q.     If you look at the population of  
8     individuals who have contracted lung cancer, do you  
9     agree or disagree that 80 percent of that population  
10    are smokers?

11           MR. ROWLEY:  Object to the form, asked and  
12    answered.

13           THE WITNESS:  I just said that you can  
14    study different populations and come up with  
15    different numbers.  Smoking is a risk factor for lung  
16    cancer.  I thought I already answered that.

17           BY MS. RITTER:

18           Q.     Do you agree or disagree that the incidence  
19    of lung cancer begins to climb rapidly at age 40 and  
20    increases dramatically between the ages 40 and 80?

21           MR. ROWLEY:  Same objection; vague.

22           THE WITNESS:  Well, I have seen lung  
23    cancers in young people and I have seen lung cancers  
24    in old people and there are, you know, many risk  
25    factors that we are all subjected to.  There are

1 probably more people over the age of 50 that have  
2 been diagnosed with lung cancer than there are age  
3 30.

4 BY MS. RITTER:

5 Q. Are you familiar with any data on  
6 populations of smokers and nonsmokers that indicate  
7 that the incidence of lung cancer begins to climb  
8 rapidly at age 40 and increases dramatically between  
9 ages 40 and 80?

10 MR. ROWLEY: Objection; asked and answered.

11 THE WITNESS: I would like to give you the  
12 same answer I gave you to the last question because  
13 it was the same question.

14 BY MS. RITTER:

15 Q. Are you aware that in the articles you have  
16 provided as having reviewed in this case that the  
17 conclusion that the incidence of lung cancer begins  
18 to climb rapidly at age 40 and increases dramatically  
19 between ages 40 and 80 has been stated by the author  
20 named Wolfcalf?

21 A. Well, again, I thought I answered that.  
22 There are -- I have seen and certainly read that  
23 data. We see lung cancer in people that are young  
24 and we see perhaps more lung cancer in people that  
25 are older but you need to know about those people.

1 You need to know what other risk factors there are.

2 Q. Have you reviewed any of the medical  
3 records of any of the individual class  
4 representatives in this case?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Which ones?

7 A. Well, I believe it was Ms. Blankenship and  
8 Ms. Sibo.

9 Q. As you sit here today, do you have an  
10 opinion as to whether or not either of those  
11 individuals are at an increased risk of contracting a  
12 smoking related disease over persons who did not  
13 smoke?

14 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

15 THE WITNESS: Well, they are both smokers  
16 and I have said earlier that we know that smoking in  
17 general population studies is a factor that has a  
18 risk factor for cancer so there is a risk factor but  
19 they also have multiple other risk factors. As I  
20 read their depositions, they have multiple other risk  
21 factors.

22 BY MS. RITTER:

23 Q. In making your decision, which is reflected  
24 in your report in this case, effectiveness of  
25 screening for lung cancer and various forms of heart

1 disease, did you utilize any sort of probability tree  
2 or decision tree?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form of the  
4 question.

5 THE WITNESS: You would have to be a lot  
6 more specific.

7 BY MS. RITTER:

8 Q. Did you use any sort of a decision making  
9 model when you were making your determination?

10 MR. ROWLEY: Same objection.

11 THE WITNESS: What decision model are you  
12 alluding to?

13 BY MS. RITTER:

14 Q. Well, if you look at the article by  
15 Dr. Eddie that was in the materials you reviewed, you  
16 reviewed for this case, at page 10 through page 14,  
17 he discusses the various decisionmaking models,  
18 probability trees and decision trees that should be  
19 used when making policy decisions concerning whether  
20 or not screening for a particular disease is  
21 something that should be done. So that's the kind of  
22 analysis that I'm wondering whether you did.

23 A. I base my decisions on sound medical  
24 evidence that is very well quoted in the book called,  
25 "Guide to Clinical Preventive Services," where they



1 have looked at the best, most scientifically done  
2 studies in terms of that question. Theoretical  
3 notions, speculation, we can all do that. I prefer  
4 to base my opinions on science.

5 Q. In making your decision and basing it on  
6 science, did you consider the benefits, harms and  
7 costs of screening for lung cancer, lung disease and  
8 heart disease in smokers?

9 MR. ROWLEY: Objection; compound.

10 THE WITNESS: Well, you know, I go back to  
11 the same thing. I try to base all of my opinions on  
12 the best available science. You said something about  
13 risk? Did I hear that in your question?

14 BY MS. RITTER:

15 Q. No, I said benefits, harms and costs.

16 A. Harm, was that the word?

17 Q. Harm, benefits, harms and cost.

18 A. Well, addressing specifically the  
19 consideration of harm, if the best available medical  
20 science that we have indicates that screening offers  
21 no benefit and now you are attempting to screen  
22 millions of people, the likely outcome of that, since  
23 there is no evidence that you are going to do them  
24 any good, is that you could potentially do them a  
25 great deal of harm. The Institute of Medicine

1 recently came out with a very important report about  
2 the number of patients and individuals that die every  
3 year from medical interventions and mistakes and I am  
4 very concerned that if you embark upon a screen that  
5 has no scientific validity or indication, that what  
6 you may end up with are injuring, perhaps even  
7 fatally, many people in which you have never been  
8 able to demonstrate that they would benefit from such  
9 screening. To me, the unintended consequences of  
10 that are very serious.

11 Q. As a physician, Dr. Spagnolo, do you  
12 believe that the patients themselves should be the  
13 ones who make the comparisons of sort of the  
14 cost/benefit/harm analysis of whether a screening  
15 program would or would not be a good thing?

16 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague.

17 THE WITNESS: I was a little confused by  
18 your question. Who is going to make what decision?

19 BY MS. RITTER:

20 Q. It seems me, Dr. Spagnolo, that in your  
21 report you have gone through an analysis and relied  
22 on other materials where similar analysis has been  
23 made where what is being done is to compare the  
24 benefits, harms and costs of medical screening  
25 programs and once having completed the comparison,

1 decided whether or not such screening should go  
2 forward. So you have made sort of a kind of a cost  
3 benefit analysis which also includes in it the harm  
4 that you, yourself, have alluded to today, as well as  
5 in your report, as well as in the various materials  
6 that you have reviewed. I wondered if you, as a  
7 physician, believe that it is you or whether perhaps  
8 the patient who ought to make the comparison of those  
9 benefits, harms and costs in order to determine  
10 whether or not the screening program should go  
11 forward.

12 MR. ROWLEY: Ann, let me object to the  
13 form. He has just testified that there is no  
14 evidence of benefit. I think the question is both  
15 argumentative and vague in light of the answer that  
16 he just gave you.

17 Subject to that, if you can answer that  
18 question, go ahead.

19 THE WITNESS: First of all, I don't  
20 understand the question and so I can't possibly  
21 answer it and I think I have already given you an  
22 answer because there is no evidence that screening  
23 would be a benefit to these patients so why would you  
24 certainly want to -- why would you even encourage or  
25 suggest that they should do something that should be

1 dangerous to their health, in fact, maybe even kill  
2 them.

3 BY MS. RITTER:

4 Q. That's something that you think you should  
5 be allowed to decide as a retained expert of the  
6 tobacco companies in this case?

7 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form,  
8 argumentative, and move to strike the question.

9 THE WITNESS: I'm attempting to respond to  
10 your questions to the best of my ability. There is  
11 no data. Every single organization has recommended  
12 against screening and you can read in their reports  
13 the reasons why they have made those strong  
14 recommendations, level one recommendations in many  
15 cases. And I can't answer that question any better  
16 than I have already done.

17 BY MS. RITTER:

18 Q. Dr. Spagnolo, that's not correct, is it?  
19 In fact, in the very book that you rely on, the  
20 report of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,  
21 they, in fact, themselves do report a recommendation  
22 for screening of at-risk populations, don't they?

23 A. Well, again, you want to give me the  
24 population they want to screen? Your question is  
25 very general. Are you talking about mammograms?

1           Q.     No, actually I'm not.  If you turn to page  
2     8 and 9 of the report concerning asymptomatic  
3     coronary artery disease, and that's what we are  
4     talking about here is asymptomatic individuals, isn't  
5     it true that they indicate here --

6           MR. ROWLEY:  Ann, can we wait until he gets  
7     to the page that you are referring to before we get  
8     the question?  So you have referred to page 8 and 9.  
9     Can you direct him to the portion that the question  
10    is based on?

11           BY MS. RITTER:

12           Q.     Isn't it true, Dr. Spagnolo, that at the  
13     bottom of page 8 in the report titled, "U.S.  
14     Preventive Services Task Force Report Guide to  
15     Clinical Preventive Services," that the authors  
16     report that the American College of Sports Medicine  
17     recommends exercise ECG testing for men over age 40,  
18     women over age 50 and other asymptomatic persons with  
19     multiple cardiac risk factors prior to beginning a  
20     vigorous exercise program?  Isn't it true that they  
21     report that there?

22           A.     Well, that sentence, you have read it  
23     correctly but you forgot to read all the other  
24     sentences which I think are just as important.  If  
25     you are about to go run a marathon and you might --

1 they are, obviously, making that recommendation for  
2 somebody who is going to have vigorous exercise. The  
3 routine -- if you go back to the very first sentence,  
4 which is probably more important, the routine use of  
5 resting electrocardiogram to screen for coronary  
6 artery disease in asymptomatic adults is not  
7 recommended by the American College of Physicians or  
8 the Canadian Task Force or the periodic health  
9 examination. The recommendation by the American  
10 Academy of Family Physicians is for a baseline  
11 cardiogram for men over 40 and older with two or more  
12 risk factors about to begin a vigorous exercise  
13 program. So in that very, very, very limited  
14 context, but the general recommendation for  
15 asymptomatic adults is that nobody recommends an EKG  
16 for screening.

17 Q. Do you disagree with that limited  
18 recommendation that is set forth there on page 8?

19 A. Well, do I disagree with it? I have no  
20 other data at my fingertips to either agree or  
21 disagree with the American College of Sports Medicine  
22 and I would have to go back and see what they base  
23 that recommendation on.

24 Q. And at the top of page 9, doesn't the  
25 report also indicate that the ACC/AHA recognizes that

1 the exercise ECG is frequently used to screen  
2 asymptomatic persons in some high risk category, has  
3 concluded that there is a divergence of opinions with  
4 respect to its usefulness?

5 MR. ROWLEY: Objection.

6 BY MS. RITTER:

7 Q. Is that in the report there?

8 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

9 A. Well, I will go on and read the next  
10 sentence. "The ACP does not recommend exercise  
11 testing with EKG as a routine screening procedure in  
12 asymptomatic adults."

13 Q. But we are talking about an at-risk group  
14 here, aren't we, Doctor?

15 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form. Hold on.  
16 Object to the form. What do you mean by "here"?

17 BY MS. RITTER:

18 Q. In this case, are we or are we not,  
19 Dr. Spagnolo, talking about instead of an  
20 asymptomatic group of adults, we are talking about an  
21 asymptomatic group of at-risk adults, aren't we?

22 A. I don't know what they are defining in  
23 terms of what the word "at risk" means.

24 Q. Have you read this book, "The Guide to  
25 Clinical Preventive Services," before you did your

1 report?

2 A. I thought I already answered that.

3 MR. ROWLEY: Objection; asked and answered.

4 BY MS. RITTER:

5 Q. I don't think you answered it for this  
6 book. You said that you thought you had reviewed  
7 sort of most of the various materials and I would  
8 like to know specifically for this book have you read  
9 the book?

10 MR. ROWLEY: Asked and answered.

11 BY MS. RITTER:

12 Q. Dr. Spagnolo, you can still answer.

13 A. I have reviewed the book.

14 BY MS. RITTER:

15 Q. Is this a book that you have in your  
16 office?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. And how long have you had that book in your  
19 office?

20 A. Well, as I recall, they had a first edition  
21 and then they came out with the second edition so I  
22 can't remember how long I have had it there. It's  
23 been a long time.

24 Q. Are you familiar with the article by Gary  
25 Straus that was contained in the materials you have



1 reviewed in connection with this West Virginia case?

2 A. I have read that article.

3 Q. Are you aware that those authors note the  
4 MLSP, MSKLP and JHLP, all three, as supporting the  
5 conclusion that cure rates in lung cancer would more  
6 than double if population based periodic CXRs were  
7 carried out?

8 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

9 THE WITNESS: I can't remember what all  
10 those initials stand for and I would have to go back  
11 and look at that.

12 BY MS. RITTER:

13 Q. Do you recall those authors concluding in  
14 summary and conclusion, "Annual CXR screening  
15 favorably influences age distribution, resectability,  
16 survival and fatality in lung cancer"?

17 A. That's a conclusion that Dr. Straus, I  
18 think, adheres to. The mortality in those groups was  
19 unchanged. When you look at the mortality of the  
20 study and the finding that maybe an individual  
21 survivor lived a little longer is no proof that  
22 screening was effective. That happens to be Dr.  
23 Straus' opinion.

24 Q. And you disagree with Dr. Straus?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 Q. Have you ever conducted any studies like  
2 Dr. Straus has concerning screening for lung cancer?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

4 THE WITNESS: I don't know what studies you  
5 are talking about.

6 BY MS. RITTER:

7 Q. Have you ever conducted a single study  
8 related to the effectiveness of screening for lung  
9 cancer?

10 MR. ROWLEY: Objection; asked and  
11 answered.

12 THE WITNESS: No, because the evidence is  
13 that screening for lung cancer is not effective.

14 BY MS. RITTER:

15 Q. Doctor, are you still at George Washington?

16 A. I am.

17 Q. Do you know whether your own medical school  
18 disagrees with you concerning the value of MASS  
19 medical screenings absent individual physician  
20 involvement with each patient?

21 MR. ROWLEY: Objection; vague.

22 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

23 BY MS. RITTER:

24 Q. Are you familiar with a physician named  
25 Dr. Laura Welsch of the George Washington School of

1 Medicine?

2 A. I am and Dr. Welsch used to be in my  
3 department. She is no longer with us. She is  
4 working at the Washington Hospital Center. She may  
5 still carry a clinical title at G.W. but she no  
6 longer works for George Washington University.

7 Q. Are you aware that while she was in your  
8 department at your medical school at George  
9 Washington School of Medicine, Dr. Welsch designed  
10 and administered a massive medical screening program  
11 for asbestos exposed population screenings for lung  
12 cancer and asbestos lung disease using chest X-rays?

13 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

14 THE WITNESS: She wasn't in my department,  
15 I think, when she carried out that study and I can't  
16 go into any details on that study but she was in  
17 another department at the time.

18 BY MS. RITTER:

19 Q. Are you certain of that?

20 A. She was in -- my department was the  
21 Division of Pulmonary Disease and Allergy. She was  
22 in the Division of Occupational Medicine.

23 Q. When was she in your department?

24 A. When she first came to G.W. back in -- many  
25 years ago. I don't remember the exact date.

1           Q.     Are you aware of the SMWIA screening  
2 program that Dr. Welsch designed and administered  
3 while she was with George Washington Medical School?

4           MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, asked and  
5 answered.

6           THE WITNESS: I gave you an answer. I told  
7 you I'm not aware of the details.

8           BY MS. RITTER:

9           Q.     Were you aware that the study existed?

10          A.     Not specifically. I think I might have  
11 heard of some study but I was not aware of it, no.

12          Q.     Have you read the published articles  
13 concerning the results of that study?

14          A.     No, I don't believe I have seen that.

15          Q.     At the George Washington Medical Center, is  
16 it standard policy to not order medical tests if they  
17 are not covered by health insurance?

18          A.     I have no idea.

19          Q.     In your medical practice, does the  
20 patient's lack of insurance ever constrain your  
21 ability to order medical tests?

22          A.     Well, I mean that's a difficult question to  
23 answer. I have ordered tests on people who don't  
24 have insurance and my assumption is they paid for the  
25 tests or someone else has paid for them.

1 Q. Do you actually see patients?

2 A. Every single day.

3 Q. Are the patients you typically see  
4 asymptomatic or symptomatic?

5 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

6 THE WITNESS: That's a lovely question. I  
7 see all kinds of patients. I see patients in  
8 referral. I see patients that aren't referred. I  
9 see all kinds of patients.

10 BY MS. RITTER:

11 Q. What percentage of the patients you see are  
12 asymptomatic?

13 A. I have no idea.

14 Q. Does George Washington Medical School have  
15 any sort of a standard practice on medical tests that  
16 should be ordered in asymptomatic smokers?

17 A. I have no idea.

18 MS. RITTER: Just one second, please.

19 BY MS. RITTER:

20 Q. At page 3 of your report, towards the  
21 bottom of the first paragraph, you provide a list of  
22 organizations that do not recommend screening  
23 asymptomatic smokers and you include in that list the  
24 American Cancer Society. Is there a specific  
25 published recommendation that you are referring to

1 for that proposition?

2 A. Well, I would have to go back and look  
3 specifically but my recollection is that in the  
4 American Cancer Society most recent clinical oncology  
5 textbook, they recommend against screening and I  
6 certainly could get that reference for you.

7 Q. What I would like to get is the reference  
8 for that statement contained at that page of your  
9 report. And if it is that American Cancer Society  
10 textbook, which, by the way, in your review  
11 materials, there is such a text, an excerpt of such a  
12 textbook. I don't mean to suggest that is the one  
13 but there is one in there. I just would like to know  
14 which of many possible alternatives of publications  
15 you are relying on for that.

16 A. I'm sure that the American Cancer Society,  
17 that is their recommendation and I'm sure if it is  
18 not in -- I know it is in that textbook and I'm  
19 virtually certain it is in some of their other  
20 publications so I would have to dig those out for  
21 you.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the term "peer  
23 review" as it is used in the context of medical and  
24 scientific publications?

25 A. Yes, I am.

1 Q. What does that mean?

2 A. Well, as a general statement, it is that  
3 other people have reviewed your article or  
4 publication before it's gone into a journal.

5 Q. Why is it important to have that process of  
6 peer review?

7 A. Well, there is debate. Some people feel it  
8 is not that necessary but other people feel it is  
9 nice to have other people in the field look at your  
10 manuscript before you submit it for publication.  
11 Sometimes they can be helpful in making constructive  
12 suggestions.

13 Q. When you are looking at an article, does it  
14 have any significance to you to know that the article  
15 has, in fact, been peer reviewed?

16 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form, vague.

17 THE WITNESS: It depends on what you are  
18 looking at it for. It may; it may not.

19 BY MS. RITTER:

20 Q. I was thinking of asking you about a couple  
21 of quotes by doctors in popular press, such as The  
22 Wall Street Journal or the New York times, and  
23 wondered before I ask you about statements of doctors  
24 in popular press whether, in general, you have any  
25 opinion on those sorts of quotes in popular press and

1 whether they are reliable for use in scientific  
2 evaluations.

3 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, I don't know if I want  
5 to have an opinion. That's -- I mean I don't know if  
6 I have an opinion on that issue. I would have to  
7 see. In general, I don't know if I have a specific  
8 opinion.

9 BY MS. RITTER:

10 Q. When you read quotes from doctors in the  
11 newspaper, do you take those quotes at face value as  
12 being reliable, as being the quote of that doctor?

13 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form. Do  
14 you have a quote that you would like him to  
15 consider?

16 MS. RITTER: Well, I may. It just depends  
17 on what his general feel is about statements by  
18 doctors in newspapers.

19 MR. ROWLEY: Well, asked and answered. He  
20 said, I think, it depends on the quote. But that's  
21 asked and answered.

22 MS. RITTER: I don't think that he said it  
23 depends on the quote, in fact.

24 MR. ROWLEY: Well, the record will speak  
25 for itself. If he didn't say that -- hold on. My



1 objection is that it is asked and answered. You have  
2 asked that question. He has given an answer to the  
3 question. If you want to ask him about a quote,  
4 please do so. But he has already answered the  
5 question that's pending.

6 BY MS. RITTER:

7 Q. How much money do you get paid to consult  
8 for the cigarette industry?

9 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form.

10 BY MS. RITTER:

11 Q. Dr. Spagnolo, I'm trying to get what your  
12 current rates are for the sort of consulting you do  
13 for the cigarette companies.

14 A. I consulted for this case here looking at  
15 medical monitoring and I have been charging \$350 an  
16 hour and I have put in about 25 hours.

17 Q. Is this the first case you have ever  
18 consulted on for the cigarette companies?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you know how you came to be recruited as  
21 an expert for the cigarette companies in this case?

22 MR. ROWLEY: Object to the form,  
23 recruited.

24 You may answer.

25 THE WITNESS: Well, I'm not sure I know

1 what you mean by "recruited."

2 BY MS. RITTER:

3 Q. Well, somebody had to come up with your  
4 name and so I wondered if you have any knowledge --  
5 or either you called them. I'm wondering how you  
6 came to be a consultant for the cigarette companies.

7 A. Well, I certainly didn't call them and  
8 since I am, I would assume, rather well-known around  
9 the world, maybe they just knew of me.

10 Q. Nobody ever mentioned to you where they got  
11 your name or the particular article or they saw you  
12 speak, that's never been mentioned to you?

13 A. It may have come from some other attorney  
14 that may have known them. That's probably my guess.

15 Q. Have you consulted with other attorneys on  
16 other litigation?

17 A. I have done a couple malpractice cases.

18 Q. What malpractice cases have you done?

19 A. Well, I don't remember at this movement. I  
20 only have done a couple. Nothing in the recent -- I  
21 don't think I have done anything for a few years. I  
22 have done one or two for the plaintiff and one or  
23 two, probably, for the defendant.

24 Q. What cases or what lawyers -- let's stick  
25 with just the lawyers since you don't really remember

1 the cases. Do you recall the names of the law firms  
2 of any of the lawyers that have been involved in any  
3 of the cases?

4 A. No, I do not.

5 Q. So your best guess is that some lawyer who  
6 you don't even remember for some cases a few years  
7 ago, less than probably four cases, is the one who  
8 gave your name to the cigarette company?

9 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: I mean I don't know the  
11 answer specifically. It is my guess that they  
12 received my name or somebody mentioned my name. I'm  
13 fairly well-known and I suppose that's how they got  
14 me. And I was called and asked if I would be willing  
15 to look at some issues related to medical monitoring.

16 BY MS. RITTER:

17 Q. Have you ever designed a medical monitoring  
18 program of any sort?

19 A. No, not to my recollection.

20 Q. In the cases that you consulted on before  
21 this cigarette case, did you ever actually testify at  
22 trial?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Where was the trial?

25 A. One trial was in -- you know, I don't

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1 remember whether it was Kansas City, Missouri or  
2 Kansas City, Kansas, it was so long ago. And one was  
3 in Virginia. It wasn't really a jury trial. It was  
4 a panel, a judge panel.

5 Q. Do you have any family in West Virginia?

6 A. Not that I am aware of.

7 Q. Dr. Spagnolo, do you have any family in  
8 West Virginia?

9 A. Not that I am aware of.

10 Q. Have you met with any attorneys in  
11 preparation for your deposition or in preparation of  
12 your report?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Which attorneys?

15 A. Well, I met yesterday with Carl.

16 Q. Prior to that, had you met with any  
17 attorneys in connection with this case?

18 A. Yes. I met with an attorney from Shook,  
19 Hardy & Bacon.

20 Q. Was Shook, Hardy & Bacon involved in any of  
21 the cases like the one where it was a trial in Kansas  
22 City?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Who did you meet with at Shook, Hardy &  
25 Bacon?

1 A. Mr. Frarie.

2 Q. Did you meet there at their offices in  
3 Kansas City?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Are you a cigarette smoker?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Were you ever a cigarette smoker?

8 A. No.

9 Q. The expert witness disclosure that was  
10 prepared in this case that has your name on it, was  
11 that typed by you or somebody in your office?

12 A. Was it typed by me? It was -- parts of it  
13 were typed by me but, no, most of it was finally  
14 typed by someone else.

15 Q. Was that somebody at one of the law firms?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were they typing from a handwritten version  
18 that you had prepared?

19 A. Well, parts of it were -- parts of it were  
20 handwritten, parts of it were typed, parts of it were  
21 notes. It was a compilation of a bunch of stuff.

22 Q. Is this a report that you could fairly say  
23 was actually written sentence by sentence by you?

24 A. It was written predominantly by me.

25 Q. And for the portions that were not

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1 predominantly written by you, who were those written  
2 by?

3 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form and  
4 the question implies that somebody else wrote part of  
5 the report. I object to the question.

6 You may answer.

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, nobody wrote parts of  
8 the report. This was my writing and reviewing and  
9 talking and discussing and putting words into  
10 phrases, so the report is my report.

11 BY MS. RITTER:

12 Q. And before you signed the version that's  
13 been provided to me, which, by the way, does contain  
14 your signature, did you have an opportunity to review  
15 the report?

16 A. I certainly did.

17 Q. And other than the typographical errors  
18 that Counsel brought to our attention today at the  
19 beginning of the deposition, do you know of any other  
20 mistakes in the report?

21 MR. ROWLEY: Let me object to the form.

22 THE WITNESS: I'm not aware of any. I  
23 missed -- when I wrote that, I missed those -- I  
24 missed those two typos and, no, I'm not aware of any  
25 other mistakes.

1 BY MS. RITTER:

2 Q. Have you been a consultant to the Surgeon  
3 General's office on any of the Surgeon General  
4 reports on smoking and health?

5 A. Not to my knowledge.

6 MS. RITTER: That's all the questions I  
7 have.

8 MR. ROWLEY: Okay. Thank you. I have no  
9 questions. I take it that no one else on the line  
10 has questions?

11 MS. JANULIS: No questions, Carl.

12 MR. FLIEHMAN: No questions, Carl.

13 MR. ROWLEY: Okay. Very good.

14 MS. RITTER: Is he going to read and sign?

15 MR. ROWLEY: Yes, He is going to read and  
16 sign.

17 MS. RITTER: I would hope you all would  
18 provide, at least by way of letter, the ACS cite for  
19 that portion of the report we were referring to the  
20 ACS.

21 MR. ROWLEY: Well, Ann, I thought he  
22 answered that question.

23 MS. RITTER: Well, he said -- he is saying  
24 all of them, which I'm not sure is correct but if he  
25 says he was referring on all of them, that's fine.

1    Okay.

2                   MR. ROWLEY:   Well, I think the record will  
3   speak for itself as to what he said.

4                   MS. RITTER:   I do think he said he was  
5   going to try to find the one he meant but that's  
6   okay.

7                   (Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the deposition was  
8   concluded.)

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1 SAMUEL V. SPAGNOLO, M.D.

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4 WITNESS

EXAMINATION

5 Samuel V. Spagnolo, M.D.

6 By Ms. Ritter

5

7 EXHIBITS

8 (None marked)

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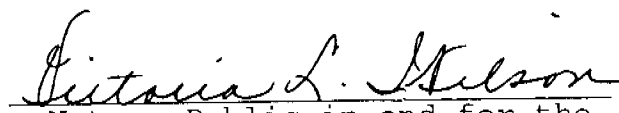
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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC & REPORTER

I, VICTORIA L. WILSON , the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn; that the testimony of said witness was taken in shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; that said deposition is a true record of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

  
Notary Public in and for the  
District of Columbia

My Commission Expires JANUARY 31, 2004

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SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT

I, the undersigned, SAMUEL V. SPAGNOLO, M.D.,  
do hereby certify that I have read the  
foregoing deposition and find it to be a true  
and accurate transcription of my testimony,  
with the following corrections, if any:

PAGE	LINE	CHANGE	REASON
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SAMUEL V. SPAGNOLO, M.D.      Date

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